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SOURCE Sinkiang Jih-pao (Sinkiang Daily), No 4313, 1949. (Information requested.)

CENSORSHIP OF FOREIGN CABLE DESPATCHES

Teng Wen-i, chief, Political Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of National Defense, received foreign correspondents today and answered questions about censorship of telegraphic news despatches.

The questions asked were: Has the government begun to censor foreign cable news despatches? If not, does the government intend to put censorship into effect? If so, when will it be started? What agency is censoring or would be charged with the responsibility for censoring cable despatches? By what special law or order is such censorship authorized? If such censorship is in effect or is contemplated, will its scope be limited to military or political matters, or to both?

The answers were as follows: "According to the presidential order promulgated 27 December 1948, wherever the authorities responsible for peace and order in any important locality deem it necessary, they may, after receiving the approval of the Executive Yuan, put regional censorship into effect for postal and telegraphic messages. Such censorship is already in operation in a number of areas. The question of whether cabled news despatches should or should not be subject to such censorship is now receiving careful consideration by the authorities concerned. Until a final decision has been reached, the government naturally will permit unrestricted transmission of cable despatches. Furthermore, if the government should decide to effect regional censorship of telegraphic news despatches it will give advance notice to newspapers and news agencies. I can assure you that in case censorship is put into effect the government will do everything in its power to avoid delays."

- END -

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